

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glanmire** Ref: **117**
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **184**
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	24
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	20
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	184

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your detailed Entry Form together with your Map which set out the areas which you are putting forward for adjudication. In consequence your category, which is based on estimated population, has been amended to Category B (201 to 1,000 population). Your energetic 8 members are working well with the Community at large and your meetings with Cork County Council each year are bound to improve communications, support and co-operation thus leading to enhanced presentation of Glanmire.

The Village while small contains many vistas and elements of considerable attractiveness. Superb views are to be experienced as you descend the Church of Ireland Road embracing distant, settled estates, great houses and splendid mature trees. The small scale but delightful bridge over the Glanmire River to Dundslands Gardens is a joy. The Centre has installed many fine pavements during the year while the castellated entrance to Glanmervyn House is most imposing. The three delightful, old world houses on the left hand approach from Dunkettle are significant from a number of reasons and every effort should be made to return them to gainful occupation. Sadly, considerable spoil was encountered at the Dunkettle roundabout itself. We note work is in progress in the yard at the Church of Ireland. A number of coaches were parked there and an old car we fear has taken root. Substantial new developments are taking place at Gleann Caoin, these are marked by excellent pavement and front facing walls.

The Built Environment:

History has bequeathed you many fine stone walls and delightful vistas as mentioned above. It is imperative that the imposing structures of yester-year be found appropriate and gainful present day use if they are to survive. Eastcliff House, recently sold, is a delightful structure, imposing and well made with red-brick

detailing on windows and doors. The small AIB at the Bridge was well presented as was the Flowers Forever which was colourful. The vibrant, red painted Hair Salon caught the eye while the Monkey Maze was very colourful. Barry Bros., General Merchants closed the view when approaching from Church Road and so was visually most significant, a role it carried off with great aplomb.

Tíloingsith looked very well as did O'Connells of Glanmire

Landscaping:

Old established trees are a delightful feature of Glanmire. We liked particularly the Weeping Willow and the pleasant planting in front of the five new houses at Glanmire Bridge. The presentation of the avenue leading to the various Schools was most appropriate, clean, neat and orderly. The effective refurbishment of the 1949 Grotto added considerably to its appearance and the parking area opposite is an excellent facility. The presentation of the grassed areas from Dunkettle roundabout was neat and orderly. Weeds had been removed, the road brushed and this set off the mature trees and the well tended grass to optimum effect. The approach to the Vienna Woods Hotel is delightfully atmospheric. An enchanting canopy of trees leaves a lasting impression. Do cut back the grass and wash the crash barrier which now intrudes into an otherwise delightful scene.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The extent of the woods in the grounds of the Vienna Woods Hotel is an important and valuable asset. Take advice from a local wildlife or birdlife enthusiast on how best to create the essential food chain, if a range of birds and wildlife are to be attracted. The planting of suitable, berry bearing shrubs and trees is a pre-requisite and will add greatly to the interest and pleasure of this remarkable location.

Litter Control:

The litter management was quite good on the day. There were occasional lapses from an overall high standard, notably in the carpark of Flowers Forever and near the Grotto. The number of litter bins, while modest in total were appropriately positioned and of suitable design.

Waste Minimisation:

The benefits of your members participating in the Global Action Plan course is an excellent first step. There is a need for an amended mindset in respect of the handling of waste, it is both urgent and vital. Facilitating the re-use where feasible and recycling wherever possible is part of the task. Perhaps, equally beneficial will be an emphasis on ensuring that all are made aware of their personal responsibilities to this end and encouraged to become part of this rapid growing movement. Do consult the Tidy Towns Guidebook and also the literature from the 'War on Waste'

Tidiness:

There continues to be good room for improvement under this category. Your decision to audit the condition of all signs is well merited as a number did require to be washed and, in a few instances a case can be made for their early replacement. The 'Caution Concealed Entrance' sign for example is unreadable. There were substantial weeds outside the security fencing of a building. While un-named we understand it is a pumping station or similar. Well -done on the suitable hoarding currently positioned at the closed Texaco Service Station.

Residential Areas:

The existing housing stock within Glanmire is currently - and increasingly rapidly- expanding. At Gleann Caoin, Castlejane Apartments, Glanmire Court, Crawford Woods significant housing developments are at various stages of completion. At Gleann Caoin excellent planting has taken place in the communal area leading to the estate railings, providing an agreeable sense of enclosure. At Castlejane Apartments it is important to remove and prevent the growth of weeds outside kerbs. An excellent house was observed above the Church of Ireland whilst Spire View was equally attractive.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

From the Dublin approach the Village name plate had some graffiti. The kerbs and verges were well presented. The Cork directional sign does need to be washed. On the Cahertag Road the Village name plate requires washing. The small scale Failte go Glanmire metal signs were most attractive.

The road leading from the incredibly busy Dunkettle roundabout was very well swept; the grass and verges

were appropriately cut back with the splendid backdrop of the Glanmire River. The Foto Island Sign requires washing. We noted the repair work currently in train on the splendid stone wall here.

General Impression:

You are coping very well with the enormous changes taking place in your village. The daily task of keeping house fronts clean and free of traffic grime is certainly not an easy one but will be improved if more people assume responsibility for their own immediate area.

You have in your charge an excellent centre with superb views and a wide range of most interesting structures together with, inevitably, a number of problems and difficulties to be overcome. Please continue your efforts to present this delightful oasis in a manner appropriate to its attractiveness.